

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1           Claim 1 (original): A sheath for a manually manipulated controller having at  
2   least one accessible button control or rotary control, comprising:  
3           top and bottom flexible panels, said top panel including a contoured perimeter  
4   and said bottom panel including a substantially like-configured perimeter;  
5           said contoured perimeter including a rounded first end portion having first and  
6   second opposite ends and having first and second linear side portions, said first side  
7   portion being an extension of said first end of said rounded first end portion, and said  
8   second side portion being an extension of said second end of said rounded first end  
9   portion;  
10          said contoured perimeter including third and fourth linear side portions, each  
11   having respective first and second ends, said third and fourth linear side portions  
12   ends being adjacently spaced apart from said first and second linear side portions;  
13          said contoured perimeter further including first and second shoulder portions  
14   interposed to extend from respective ones of said second end of said first linear side  
15   portion and said second end of said second linear side portion and defining a  
16   continuous transition between each of said second ends of said first and second linear  
17   side portions and said first ends of said third and fourth linear side portions;  
18          said panels being overlaid on one another with their respective contoured  
19   perimeters in register;  
20          means bonding said overlaid panels to one another along their respective  
21   overlaid rounded first end portions, along their respective linear side portions and  
22   along their respective shoulder portions;  
23          one of said first and second shoulder portions defining an uninterrupted  
24   transition between its respective linear side portions and the other of said first and  
25   second shoulder portions defining a scalloped transition between its respective linear  
26   side portions, whereby said scalloped transition exhibits expansibility in excess of the  
27   expansibility of said uninterrupted transition for the receipt therein of the at least one

28 button control or rotary control of the manually manipulated controller when the  
29 controller is disposed within the sheath.

1 Claim 2 (original): The sheath of claim 1, further comprising a carrier for  
2 receiving said sheath thereon, said sheath being releasably mounted to said carrier  
3 along at least a portion of said contoured perimeter of said sheath by said means  
4 bonding, whereby said sheath is removed from said carrier when the controller is  
5 disposed within the sheath.

1 Claim 3 (original): The sheath of claim 1 wherein said third and fourth linear  
2 side portions being oriented generally parallel to each other, said first and second  
3 linear side portions being oriented generally parallel to each other, and said first and  
4 second linear portions are adjacently parallel and spaced apart by respective first and  
5 second shoulder portions from said third and fourth linear side portions.

1 Claim 4 (original): The sheath of claim 1 wherein said first shoulder portion  
2 defines said scalloped transition extended between said first linear side portion and  
3 said third linear side portion.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The sheath of claim 1 wherein said second  
2 shoulder portion defines an uninterrupted ~~curved~~ transition extended between said  
3 second linear side portion and said fourth linear side portion.

1 Claim 6 (original): The sheath of claim 1, wherein said controller is sized to be  
2 hand-held and includes at least one visually accessible punch button control, said at  
3 least one rotary control is side-mounted on said controller.

1 Claim 7 (original): The sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheath is fabricated from  
2 a flexible transparent material selected from the group consisting of polyether  
3 urethane, metalacine plastic, and a sterilizable polymer material.

1 Claim 8 (original): The sheath of claim 7 wherein said means bonding includes  
2 a bond produced by a heat weld or a sonic weld of said contoured perimeters in  
3 register of said panels along their respective overlaid rounded first end portions, along  
4 their respective linear side portions, and along their respective shoulder portions.

1 Claim 9 (original): The sheath of claim 2 wherein said carrier includes a  
2 receiving surface for releasably securing said sheath to said carrier, said receiving  
3 surface is fabricated from paper stock having a gloss finish thereon.

1 Claim 10 (original): The sheath of claim 9 wherein said receiving surface of said  
2 carrier is encapsulated with a polymer material to which said contoured perimeter of  
3 said sheath is releasably secured.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): A sheath for covering a manually manipulated  
2 controller having at least one user accessible control or at least one rotary control  
3 thereon proximal to an insertion end, said sheath comprising:

4 a first and a second sheath panel of flexible materials, each panel having like-  
5 configured dimensions including a contoured perimeter, a nose end having first and  
6 second curved sides, a second end in opposing relationship with said nose end, a first  
7 linear side portion being extruded from said first curved side and a second linear side  
8 portions being extruded from said second curved side of said nose end, said first and  
9 second panels being overlaid on one another with their respective contoured  
10 perimeters in register;

11 a third and fourth linear side portion, each having respective first and second  
12 ends, said third linear side portion having said first end extended from said first  
13 shoulder portion, said fourth linear side portion having said first end extended from  
14 said second shoulder portion, said second ends of each third and fourth linear side  
15 portion being spaced apart and opposed from said nose end of said sheath;

16 a first shoulder portion defining a scalloped transition between said first linear  
17 side portion and said third linear side portion; and

18 a second shoulder portion defining ~~a curved~~ an uninterrupted transition  
19 between said second linear side portion and said fourth linear side portion, whereby  
20 said first shoulder scalloped transition exhibits expansibility in excess of the  
21 expansibility of said second shoulder curved transition for the receipt therein of the at  
22 least control or the rotary control of the controller when disposed within the sheath.

1 Claim 12 (original): The sheath of claim 11 wherein said scalloped transition  
2 includes:

3 an arcuate first shoulder having a convoluted profile of material extended  
4 therefrom, said convoluted profile formed by a plurality of ridges disposed in a spaced  
5 apart orientation along said arcuate first shoulder, said ridges forming pouches  
6 therebetween when the insertion end of the controller is inserted in the sheath,  
7 whereby when said arcuate first shoulder is positioned to cover at least one control on  
8 the controller, said convoluted profile of material is stretchable over one or more  
9 controls on the controller, thereby allowing the user to manipulate the controls  
10 without tearing said sheath flexible material;

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The sheath of claim 11 wherein said second  
2 shoulder portion includes said ~~curved~~ uninterrupted transition positioned laterally  
3 adjacent of said scalloped transition, whereby said curved transition and said  
4 scalloped transition provide a base diameter between said third and fourth linear side  
5 portions that is greater than a nose diameter between said first and second linear side  
6 portions thereby the insertion end of the controller is closely fitted within said nose  
7 end of said first and second sheath panels.

1 Claim 14 (original): The sheath of claim 13, wherein said second shoulder  
2 portion curved portion further includes a scalloped transition having a convoluted  
3 profile of material extended therefrom, said convoluted profile formed by a plurality of  
4 ridges disposed in a spaced apart orientation along said second shoulder portion,  
5 whereby when the controller is inserted in said sheath said first and second shoulder  
6 portions are stretchable over one or more controls on the controller thereby allowing  
7 the user to manipulate the controls without tearing said sheath flexible material.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The sheath of claim 11 further comprising a  
2 carrier for receiving said sheath thereon, said sheath being releasably mounted to said  
3 carrier along at least a portion of said contoured perimeter of said sheath by said  
4 means bonding, whereby said sheath is removed from said carrier when the controller  
5 is disposed within the sheath, wherein said nose end includes a perimeter weld  
6 extended between said first and second shoulder portions, said perimeter weld is  
7 releasably secured to said carrier.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The sheath of claim 11 further comprising a  
2 carrier for receiving said sheath thereon, said sheath being releasably mounted to said

3 carrier along at least a portion of said contoured perimeter of said sheath by said  
4 means bonding, whereby said sheath is removed from said carrier when the controller  
5 is disposed within the sheath, wherein said receiving surface of said carrier is  
6 fabricated from paper stock and includes a receiving surface being encapsulated with  
7 a polymer material to which said contoured perimeter of said sheath is bonded  
8 whereby said second end is not bonded to said carrier.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A sheath for covering a hand-held device having  
2 at least one user manipulated switch control or a rotatable control thereon,  
3 comprising:

4 a tubular sheath of flexible material having an open end, a nose end and a  
5 perimeter extended between said open end and said nose end, said tubular sheath  
6 including top and bottom flexible panels, said top panel including a contoured  
7 perimeter and said bottom panel including a substantially like-configured perimeter,  
8 said top and bottom flexible panels being bonded to one another along a portion of the  
9 respective of said contoured perimeters;

10 a first and second shoulder segment disposed along respective first and second  
11 sides; and

12 one of said first and second shoulder segments defining an uninterrupted  
13 transition between its respective linear side portions and the other of said first and  
14 second shoulder portions defining a scalloped transition between its respective linear  
15 side portions, whereby said scalloped transition exhibits expansibility in excess of the  
16 expansibility of said uninterrupted transition for receipt therein of the at least one  
17 control of the hand-held device when disposed within the sheath.

1 Claim 18 (original): The sheath of claim 17 wherein said scalloped transition is  
2 disposed along said first shoulder segment, whereby when said scalloped transition is  
3 disposed to cover one of the controls on the device, said scalloped transition provides  
4 flexible material expansible during manipulation of the respective control by the user,  
5 said flexible material is resiliently returned to a pre-manipulation configuration after  
6 cessation of the user's manipulation of the at least one control on the device without  
7 tearing of said flexible material of said sheath.

1           Claim 19 (original): The sheath of claim 17 wherein said uninterrupted  
2 transition is disposed on said second shoulder segment and further includes:  
3           an arcuately angled second shoulder having a convoluted profile of material  
4 extended from said arcuately angled side, whereby when said arcuately angled side is  
5 removed from said carrier by the hand-held device positioned therebetween, said  
6 convoluted profile of material is stretched over the controls on the hand-held device for  
7 user manipulation thereof without tearing said sheath.

1           Claim 20 (original): The sheath of claim 17 further comprising a carrier having  
2 a receiving surface for releasably securing said sheath in an elongated position  
3 thereon, said sheath being releasably secured to said carrier along at least a portion of  
4 said contoured perimeter of said sheath by said means bonding, whereby said sheath  
5 is removed from said carrier when the hand-held device is disposed within said  
6 sheath.